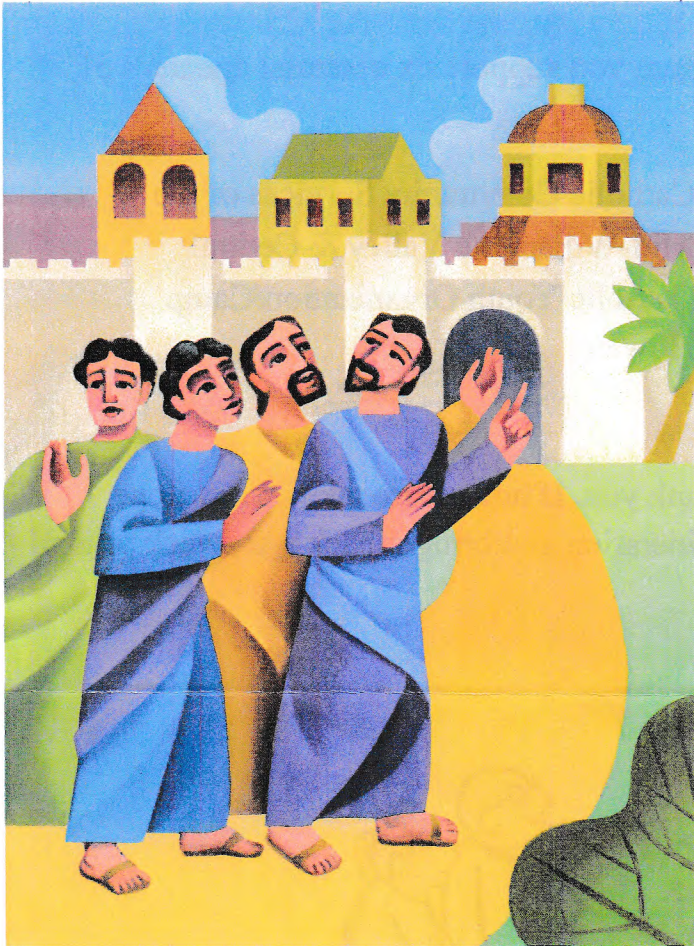


THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD



Bear Witness

God of power and might,
you led Jesus to the Cross,
raised him from the dead,
and lifted him up in glory.
Through his Paschal Mystery,
you have given us life everlasting.
Pour out your Holy Spirit upon your Church
and animate it to bear witness to Christ.
Clothe us with the power from on high,
and grant us fortitude to proclaim your
deeds to the ends of the earth.
Enliven our spirits and heal our disbelief.
Sustain our hope in you and protect us
from all harm.
Continue to open the eyes of our hearts
so that we may know your glory
and forever shout with cries of gladness and
sing your praise.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, May 8, 2016 You Will Receive Power

Today's Readings: Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9; Ephesians 1:17-23 or Hebrews 9:24-28; 10:19-23; Luke 24:46-53. Traditionally celebrated forty days after Easter, this feast has been transferred to Sunday in many dioceses so that more people have access to celebrate the mystery of the Ascension. It celebrates the exaltation of Christ, when he takes his place at the right hand of God. Since the Resurrection, the disciples have encountered Christ several times. Jesus continued to prepare them to carry out the mission. Today, we hear him commission his disciples (including us) to go out to the ends of the earth proclaiming salvation. This is a powerful image and message.

As members of the Body of Christ, we have been gifted

with the power from on high, the Holy Spirit, in order to preach the Gospel to all peoples. Though not all of us are called to ordained ministry, or even to be missionaries who travel to other countries, we are called to make known throughout the world all the things that Christ taught and promised. The Church, Christ's Body, becomes a sacrament of his presence for the entire world. Our common life proclaims this Good News. We, the baptized, make up the Body of Christ, a sign to witness, to the ends of the earth, the magnificent love and mercy of our God. Let us continue to shout "alleluia" and praise God for his marvelous deeds. Consider gathering a group from your parish to strategize new ways of evangelizing the community and your neighborhood.

It's time to consider Catholic Charities' 2016 Campaign. The Catholic Charities Annual Campaign is probably one of the most essential services that the Archdiocese provides for God's people in Western Oregon – serving a wide variety of people at different stages of their lives.

By supporting Catholic Charities of Oregon, you support six essential agencies of charities in the Archdiocese:

- Caritas Housing
- Catholic Charities (Portland)
- Catholic Community Services of Lane County
- El Programa Hispano Catolico
- Catholic Community Services of the Mid-Willamette Valley & Central
- Catholic Youth Organization/Camp Howard

If you are prepared to give this week, thank you. If not, please take an envelope home with you and give it meaningful consideration and bring it back next week or mail it in directly to Catholic Charities.

Thank you.

